



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Dafer Putross

STERLING HEIGHTS MAN SENTENCED FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY ORDERS

Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that Dafer Putross, 43, of Sterling Heights, Michigan was sentenced in Federal District Court yesterday for his conviction of (1) one count of passing forged securities, in violation of 18 United States Code section 514(a). Putross plead guilty to the offense in September of 2007 and was sentenced by the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts to 57 months in Federal Prison consecutive, in part, to an 121 month prison sentence he was already serving, five years of supervised released, and full restitution to the victims.

Investigators with the United States Secret Service received information from a local business that Putross, of Captain Dollar Store, purchased perishable goods for his store with counterfeit money orders. An ensuing investigation revealed that Putross, while on bond in a separate Federal prosecution, had purchased stolen Western Union money orders in December of 2005 for \$3000. Between December of 2005 and February of 2006, the stolen money orders were subsequently used to purchase substantial orders of cheese, olives, dried fruits, and nuts from businesses mostly located throughout the metropolitan Detroit area. Ultimately, 22 victims, mostly all local businesses, were identified as having been defrauded in excess of \$90,000. In total, it was determined that Putross had either defrauded or attempted

to defraud the victims of over \$140,000.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy said, “ In these difficult economic times, it is important that individuals who seek to cheat local businesses attempting to make an honest living are called to account for their fraud. This office will continue to not only seek significant prison time for these individuals, but to also hold them financially responsible so that any and all victims are made whole.”

Assistant United States Attorney Lenny Feller, handled the prosecution for the government.